The poor Mans Counſellor,

OR,

The marryed mans Guide.

If God have bleſt thee with a careful wife
Take my directions how to lead thy life,
Tho Riches thou doſt want yet thou ſhalt find
Far greater wealth in a contented mind,
Thy honeſt labour ſhall thy charge maintain,
Being truly got, not by unlawful gain.

Tune of, The Poor Man's Comfort,

COme friend if thy leiſure permit thee to ſtay,
Ile teach thee ſome precepts the ſame to obey,
Now thou haſt betaken thy ſelf to a Wife
How thou maiſt live happy all dayes of thy life,
Then take my directions tho thou art but poor
Relearn thee to keep the wolf from the door.

Tis not all mens fortune great Riches to have
And they that have little have moſt need to ſave,
For Riches have wings and away they will fly
And leave them forſaken that once were ſo high,
A little is better with peace and content
Then wealthin abundance in miſery ſpent.

The wealth of the world doth too many bewitch
And they are to blame that make haſt to be rich
For goods ill gotten like ſnow-balls will waſt
And he that was rich ſhall be poor at the laſt.
Therefore be content with a lowly degree
And God will provide in due time you ſhall ſee.

If thou haſt a wife that is loving and kind
Great comfort in her at all times thou wilt find
Whatever betide thee ſhe will bear a ſhare
And help to adviſe thee in woe or welfare,
Then ſtrive not her patience at all to provoke
But freely ſubmit to draw both in a yoak.

A wife that is froward I do not commend
What thou dost take pains for she'l lavishly spend
And do what thou canst for to humor her still
She'l hold thée in scorn if she want of her will,
Make much of thy wife that is loving and chast
For she will be saving and fearful to waste.

Each morning when thou dost thy labor begin
Have God in thy mind 'twill kep thee from sin
A penny hard earned, since it is thy lot
Will do thee more good than a pound thats ill got,
Then labour to thrive by the sweat of thy brows
For thats the best way all honest men knows.

If God give a blessing that Children you have
The more you must labour in time for to save
And do not you murmure & count them a charge
The better you'l thrive, & your stock will inlarge
'Twil be a great comfort thy children to see
If that they obedient and dutiful be.

Let no man intice thee thy money to waste
Be careful to spare and lay up what thou hast
Whoever shall ask thee, he is not thy friend
To go to the Alehouse thy money to spend,
Avoid such bad courses as bring men to want
And thou shalt have plenty when others have scant.

Lewd houses and Gaming be sure that you shun
Ther's many frequent them and so are undone
By such bad companions a man that's misled
May quickly be brought to a morsel of bread
A cup of good liquor at home with thy wife
Will chear up your hearts, & prevent further strife.

Be courteous and kind to thy neighbours about
And then they will love thee thou need not to doubt
Avoid all contention with strife and debate
For that will procure thee all honest mens hate,
Be civil to all men as they are to thee
Then kindly respected thou surely shalt be,

If times do prove hard and Money be scant,
Then labour for little before you do want,
And thankfully take whatsoever God sends
As times do grow better it will make amends,
A dinner of Herbs with content serves as well
As all the rich dainties which far doth excel.

When thou for thy labour some Money hast got,
Be sure do not spend it in tolling the pot,
Make haste to thy wife and children small,
And that will supply when they for bread do call,
'Twould be a great grief to thee whilst thou dost live
To hear thy Babes cry and have nothing to give.

Whatever affliction befall thee or thine,
Yet do not thou murmur or seem to repine,
For God that hath given thee mean to subsist
Can take it away whensoever he list,
Therefore be contented whatever betide,
Submit with all patience and God will provide.

Take care to remember what here I have told,
And value it dearer then silver or gold,
When thou art inclined to wander astray
Perhaps it may bring thee into the right way
And by thy example all others may see,
'Tis good to be careful and live honestly.

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